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Ministry of Education

$3.1M SCHOOL UPGRADE MAKES DELTA STUDENTS SAFER

DELTA – A $3.1-million project to upgrade earthquake resistance at Sunshine Hills elementary school has been approved by the provincial government, Delta South MLA Val Roddick announced today.

"The safety of our schools is a top priority for this government," said Roddick. "These upgrades mean that this school will continue to be a safe place for our students to learn."

The seismic upgrades to the school will include reinforcing the walls, floors and roofs, constructing new interior shear walls and upgrading the foundations. Construction is expected to take 10 months, and is scheduled to be complete by summer 2008.

"The funding is great news for the district, parents, students and staff at Sunshine Hills elementary," said Kelly Guichon, board of education chair. "This seismic project will complete the safety upgrades at Sunshine Hills and improve the learning environment of our students."

"The work we are doing on Sunshine Hills elementary school is part of a $1.5-billion program to ensure students and staff are learning and teaching in schools that meet current seismic standards," said Bond. "Our program is the most comprehensive seismic plan ever by a B.C. government."

Since 2001, the Province has invested $29 million in the Delta school district to complete 10 capital projects, including seven additions and three renovations. In addition, Sunshine Hills elementary school is one of five Delta schools approved for structural seismic upgrades. Devon Gardens elementary will begin to be seismically upgraded this summer and Delview and Burnsview secondary seismic upgrades are currently under construction.

During the same period, the Province spent over $1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 32 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovations projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than $2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects.

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